

Remarks/Arguments

In the application, claims 1 – 13 are pending and claims 1 - 13 stand rejected. In this response claims 1, 3 - 5, 10 and 11 are amended, 13 is canceled and 14 and 15 are added. Support for the new claims 14 and 15 is found in the specification on page 4 lines 22 - 23. No new matter has been introduced.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claim 1 has insufficient antecedent basis for "the color" in line 2, "the color" in lines 3 and 4, "the pixel" in line 4 and "the modified" in line 4. Claim 1 is amended to recite:

"Method of processing a source image comprising the steps of: generating at least two successive processed images; and modifying a color of at least one pixel in each processed image, such that the color of the pixel in each processed image is offset about the color of the corresponding pixel in the source image."

Applicant respectfully asserts the rejection of claim 1 is traversed. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is earnestly solicited.

Claim 13 is rejected for an apparatus claim depending from method claim 1. Claim 13 is cancelled, thus making moot its rejection.

35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1 - 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. Claim 1 is amended to recite the method steps of generating (processed images) and modifying (a color of pixels therein). Claims 2 - 12 depend from claim 1, or claims depending from claim 1 and add additional features to claim 1. Claim 13 is canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 - 12 under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Sharma et al (US 7,215,792). Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner's interpretation. Sharma et al. discloses methods and apparatus for spectrally-encoding plural source images and for providing the spectrally-encoded plural source images in a composite image (column 4 lines 4-7). Sharma et al. does not disclose a method of processing a source image generating at least two successive processed images. This is emphasized by Fig. 4 in which a first source image 71 and a second source image 72 are provided to a multiplexer 30, which outputs a composite image data file (column 25 lines 38-40) and not at least two successive processed images as claimed in claim 1.

Sharma et al. also disclose an image formed as a composite of plural overlaid (or combined) colorant image planes (column 9 lines 23-33). Thus, a colour of at least one pixel of the composite image (and not in each processed image) is different from a colour of the same pixel in the source image (either the first source image 71 or the second source image 72, Fig. 4).

Further, Sharma et al. discloses that at least one deposited colorant on the composite image is utilized for its particular spectral reflectance characteristic, and in particular for its narrow band absorption characteristic (column 5 lines 17-20) and because only a single processed image is provided (composite image), Sharma et al. does not disclose that modified colours of the pixel in each processed image offset each other in order to obtain a colour corresponding to the colour of the pixel in the source image.

Since Sharma et al does not disclose each and every element of the present claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is novel and non-obvious over the cited reference. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 is earnestly solicited.


Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be

taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' attorney at (386) 438-8034, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No additional fee is believed due. However, if an additional fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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